KU to sign accord with three foreign universities

KARACHI, Jan 1: Squeezed by the financial crunch in the wake of a cut in its annual grant, the University of Karachi is going to sign contracts with three foreign universities to start joint split PhD programmes in various subjects of science and arts, university officials told PPI here on Friday.

The three universities are: Nebraska university, US; Leads university, UK; and Tubinign university, Germany. The Karachi university syndicate has already approved the contracts and the signing ceremony will be held very soon, the officials said.

The university grants commission (UGC) has earmarked Rs168 million for the current fiscal instead of Rs180 million of the last year's. Moreover, the 10 per cent increase in every year's grant has also not been made, the officials added.

The proposed split PhD programme will be in economics, political science, international relations, general history, languages, mathematics, biology, bio-technology, food sciences and physics.

The first batch of Karachi university's teachers will go for higher degrees in 1999, they said.

The university syndicate has approved the idea, which will be treated as implemented with the advent of this year, they maintained adding that the production of skilled and professional manpower is the main purpose of these programmes.

Unfortunately, they said, least importance had been given to the higher education. Unless higher education is given utmost importance, primary education will never be beneficial.

Regarding the university's own PhD programme, the officials said the varsity had research facilities in some of the departments, especially in science faculty, but, they added, the varsity had been facing problems in carrying out a research programme due to a cut of Rs30 million in the annual grant this year.

They said the university had decided to exploit all facilities available in other universities of the country and a comprehensive strategy in this regard had been evolved.

Special incentives, including study leave, will be introduced for the research students, so that they may complete their projects with full concentration, they said.

This, they said, was done on the directives of the governor of Sindh, who is also the chancellor of all public sector universities in the province. — PPI